



EQUIPMENT
CORPORATION
MAYNARD, MASS. 01754

For Further Information:
Edgar E. Geithner
(617) 897-5111 Ext. 3015

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NEW DEC DATA CENTER MAKES USER-COMPUTER

"CONVERSATION" EASIER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.--A new desk-size computer work station that lets a user and a computer "talk" to each other in the easiest way for each, was introduced today by Digital Equipment Corporation at the Spring Joint Computer Conference. The DECdatacenter is equipped with a typewriter keyboard and numeric and function keys that let a user feed information into the computer on her own terms, while the computer can be programmed to respond either on the data center's visual terminal, through the fast, quiet character printer, or through indicator lights.

The DECdatacenter's 16 function keys and 16 function indicator lights can be programmed to do any job the user specifies. A function key could, for instance, automatically initiate an inquiry into an inventory file, or let an accounting clerk switch from a payroll program to one that lets her handle accounts receivable. The function indicator lights can be programmed and labeled to guide her through a job. Both features help employees with no specialized training use a computer.

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The data center is designed to be used with PDP-11 computer systems, and can be used either as a terminal to a large computer, or for stand-alone data processing. A basic DECdatacenter system, including a PDP-11, costs as low as \$21,395, although typical configurations are expected to be priced between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Additional data centers, for use as terminals in multi-user systems, cost \$7,995.

Because the full range of PDP-11 peripherals is available for the DECdatacenter's computer, all the tools to simplify a user's business data handling problems are provided. The system's data storage capacity can be expanded in the form of core memory, disks or magnetic tape units, and input/output capabilities can be increased by adding card readers, line printers, plotters, graphic terminals, and teletypewriters.

Deliveries of the data center are scheduled to begin in late 1971.